

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 SS-15 SSO-00 L-03 MMO-01
INR-10 INRE-00 /047 R

DRAFTED BY EA/J:E M FEATHERSTONE:EH
APPROVED BY EA/J:N PLATT
DOD/ISA:LTC D P LOHMANN
PM/ISO:P SCHLAMM

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O 022007Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 140150

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, JA

SUBJECT: REALIGNMENT ACTIONS AND COST SHARING

1. STATE/ISA HAVE ARRANGED WITH ARMY TO HOLD OFF RIF PUBLIC NOTIFICATION UNTIL AT LEAST END OF JUNE. IT IS UNCLEAR HOW MUCH LONGER WE CAN DELAY ANNOUNCEMENT. WE ARE ADVISING YOU BY SEPTEL TO ATTEMPT TO GET GOJ AGREEMENT TO A 45-DAY NOTIFICATION PERIOD INSTEAD OF CUSTOMARY 90 DAYS. THIS WOULD HELP GREATLY IN OUR EFFORTS VIS A VIS ARMY, WHICH REMAINS ADAMANT ABOUT PROCEEDING WITH RIF AND GETTING OUT FROM UNDER FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR REALIGNED WORKERS.

2. FINAL RIF FIGURES ARE STILL NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR. ARMY'S BEST CURRENT ESTIMATE NOW STANDS AT AN UPPER (WORST CASE) LIMIT OF 765 WITH A LOWER LIMIT OF "ABOUT 500" WHICH COULD
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POSSIBLY BE REDUCED FURTHER. IT APPEARS THAT THERE ARE AT LEAST 393 POSITIONS WHICH WILL BE PHASED OUT ENTIRELY WITH NO POSSIBILITY OF ANY FORM OF RETENTION. ABOUT 431 WORKERS WILL BE TRANSFERRED TO OTHER SERVICES, RETAINING JOBS.

3. IN ORDER TO DELAY RIF ANNOUNCEMENT AS LONG AS POSSIBLE, WE NEED AS CLEAR AN INDICATION AS WE CAN GET AT THIS

TIME OF WHAT GOJ MIGHT BE PREPARED TO DO IN THE WAY OF

COST SHARING MEASURES. AN ORDER OF MAGNITUDE AND SOME SORT OF PROBABILITY OF GOJ HELP WOULD ASSIST OUR EFFORTS TO HAVE ANNOUNCEMENT DATE PUSHED BACK FURTHER THAN END OF JUNE, HOPEFULLY THROUGH SEPTEMBER. HENCE BY SEPTTEL (WITH ARMY AS ADDRESSEE) WE HAVE ASKED COUNTRY TEAM TO EXPLORE DFAA THINKING RECENTLY VOICED TO EFFECT THAT GOJ MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE A PACKAGE PERMITTING RETENTION OF THOSE SLATED TO BE RELEASED.

4. IN YOUR APPROACH TO GOJ, YOU SHOULD MAKE THE POINT THAT THE REALIGNMENT PROBLEM IS SYMPTOMATIC OF THE BUDGET SQUEEZE US FACES WITH RISING COSTS IN JAPAN AND WITH YEN APPRECIATION. ARMY UNDERSTANDABLY WISHES TO AVOID UNPRODUCTIVE EXPENDITURES ASSOCIATED WITH PROVISION OF SERVICES TO AF AND NAVY ON OKINAWA WHERE ARMY PRESENCE HAS NOW GROWN VERY SMALL. REALIGNMENT WOULD RESULT IN LEANER MORE EFFECTIVE ARMY PRESENCE IN PACIFIC AREA AND WOULD PERMIT ARMY TO DEVOTE GREATER RESOURCES TO ITS GROUND COMBAT FORCES. REALIGNMENT ACTION IS MANIFESTATION OF SEVERE FINANCIAL PRESSURE US IS UNDER TO OBTAIN MOST EFFECTIVE USE OF OUR DEFENSE DOLLAR.

5. WE REALIZE THAT FAILURE TO PROVIDE GOJ WITH USFG O & M FIGURES AND PRIORITY LIST HAS HELPED TO CREATE SOME DELAY
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IN OBTAINING CLEARER COST SHARING PICTURE. ISA HAS URGED CINCPAC TO GET THESE FIGURES READY ASAP AND CINCPAC HAS RESPONDED THAT THEY WOULD DO THEIR BEST.

6. REGRET SHORT DEADLINE, BUT IN VIEW OF LIMITED TIME REMAINING TO WORK ON THIS ISSUE, WE NEED RESPONSE NOT LATER THAN JUNE 9. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COSTS, MILITARY PERSONNEL, BURDENSARING, OFFSET PAYMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE140150
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: E M FEATHERSTONE:EH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780231-0991
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197806101/aaaaditq.tel
Line Count: 101
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 950a777c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2139274
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REALIGNMENT ACTIONS AND COST SHARING
TAGS: MARR, JA, US
To: TOKYO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/950a777c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014